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In the case of the *Bouvardia* a similar law was seen. The most vigorous stems, or, as they would technically be called, woody axes, produced the female flowers.

PROF. COPE made some observations on a Batrachian of the coal measures, *Sauropleura remex*, Cope. A specimen more perfect than the type recently obtained by Prof. Newberry, exhibited posterior limbs such as had been ascribed to the *S. pectinata*. The vertebræ posterior to this point were perfectly preserved, and supported the remarkable processes to the end.

He also stated that the *Oestocephalus amphiuminus* was distinct, and was furnished with branchial arches of branchihyal bones, for the support of external gills.

MARCH 14.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Seventy-one members present.

The publication of the proceedings for September, October, November, and December, 1870, was announced.

MARCH 21.

Dr. CARSON, Vice-President, in the chair.

Eighteen members present.

PROF. LEIDY made the following remarks on *Tænia mediocanellata*. Recently, one of our ablest and most respected practitioners of medicine submitted to my examination a tapeworm which had been discharged from a young man, after the use of the *Aspidium filix-mas*. The physician, in giving an account of the case, stated that he had previously treated the patient for another affection, in which raw-beef sandwiches had been prescribed for food. After looking at the worm, I remarked that it appeared to be the *Tænia mediocanellata*, a species which I had not before seen, and added that the patient had probably become infected from a larva swallowed with the raw-beef sandwiches. The specimen consisted of the greater part of the worm, broken into several pieces. Including some lost portions, it was estimated to have been upwards of thirty feet in length. Unfortunately, the head proved to be absent; but, so far as characters could be obtained from the specimen, in the form of the segments, position of the genital orifices, and the condition of the ovaries, it agreed with the description given of *T. mediocanellata*, rather than with

T. solium. From a want of acquaintance with the former, I did not feel entirely satisfied that the specimen actually belonged to that species.

Subsequently, my friend brought to me the anterior part of the body, probably, of the same individual tapeworm. He observed that his patient continuing to complain, he had administered another dose of the male-fern, which was followed by the expulsion of the portion of the worm now presented. The head of the parasite was included, and it confirmed the view that it pertained to the *Tænia mediocanellata*.

The case serves as another caution against the use of raw flesh as food.

The description of the worm, as derived from the specimen, is as follows:—

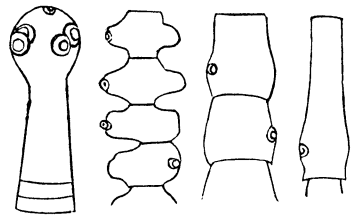
The head is white, without pigment-granules, obtusely rounded, unarmed with hooks, and unprovided with a rostellum, but furnished with a minute acetabuliform fovea at the summit. The four acetabula are spherical, and opaque white. The diameter of the head is three-fourths of a line. The neck, or unsegmented portion of the body immediately succeeding the head, is about 4 lines long by half a line in breadth. The most anterior indistinctly defined segments of the body, and those immediately succeeding them, but more distinctly separated, are about one-fifth of a line long by two-fifths of a line broad. In a more posterior fragment of the body, the flat and nearly square segments measure half a line long and 1 line broad, to one-third line long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ lines broad. A succeeding fragment exhibits segments $3\frac{1}{2}$ lines long by 4 lines broad, and 2 lines long by 5 lines broad. Many of the segments in this piece are irregularly separated, laterally, by deep, wide notches. In a succeeding long portion of the worm, the segments are wider behind than in front, and measure 2, 5, and 3 lines long by 5 lines broad. In a long piece of the posterior part of the worm, the segments are first 4 lines long and broad; and in the last four feet of the same piece, the segments are clavate in outline, from 6 to 10 lines long, and 2 and 3 lines broad.

The genital apertures are conspicuous, and are situated behind the middle of the segments. They alternate irregularly. Thus, in the last two feet of the posterior fragment of the worm, the first two segments exhibit the aperture on the left margin; the succeeding segment presents the anomaly of an aperture on both margins; then follow three apertures on the right, next two on the left, then four on the right, then eight alternating in pairs, then one on the left, and so on. The ovaries are opaque white, and exhibit numerous closely crowded lateral branches.

In the absence of pigment-granules to the head, and in the less robust character of the worm, the specimen differs from *T. mediocanellata* as described by Küchenmeister. The minute acetabular

pit or fovea at the summit of the head is not mentioned by Küchenmeister and subsequent observers as a character of that species. It is a point, however, that might be readily overlooked, especially if the parts of the head are obscured by the presence of pigment-granules.

Fig. 1.



a. Head and neck magnified. *b*. Form of segments in an anterior fragment of the worm. *c*. Form of segments in an intermediate fragment of the body. *d*. Form of segments at the posterior part of the worm.

PROF. COPE exhibited a number of fishes from the Amazon above the mouth of the Rio Negro, which included some new and rare forms. Some of the latter were *Doras brachiatus*, *Plecostomus scopularius*, *Roeboides rubrivertex*, *Myletes albiscopus*, etc. The *Plecostomus* has the following characters: D. I. 7 ; A. 5 ; L.l. 27 ; head 25, total length ; eye 25, interorbital width. Interapercular bristles very short, acute. Dorsal fin longer than high ; eight scuta between the first and second dorsals. Length, two feet. Color, light brown, with very numerous closely placed brown spots, those on the head more closely placed and often vermiform. Dorsal fin spotted. Long bristles on front and outer surfaces of both pectoral and caudal supporting rays, which are hooked at the end. Caudal marginal radii subequal. No ridge in front of orbit ; a short, prominent supra-occipital crest.

He exhibited a specimen of *Pariodon microps*, Kner, describing the parasitic habits of *Stegophilus* and those ascribed to *Vandellia*. He thought the structure and coloration of the *Pariodon* indicated similar habits, and that it would be found to be an inhabitant, at times at least, of the cavity of the body of some other animal.

MARCH 28.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-three members present.

MR. JOSEPH WHARTON remarked that a letter, received this day, from Thomas Macfarlane, the discoverer of Silver Islet, in Lake 1871.]